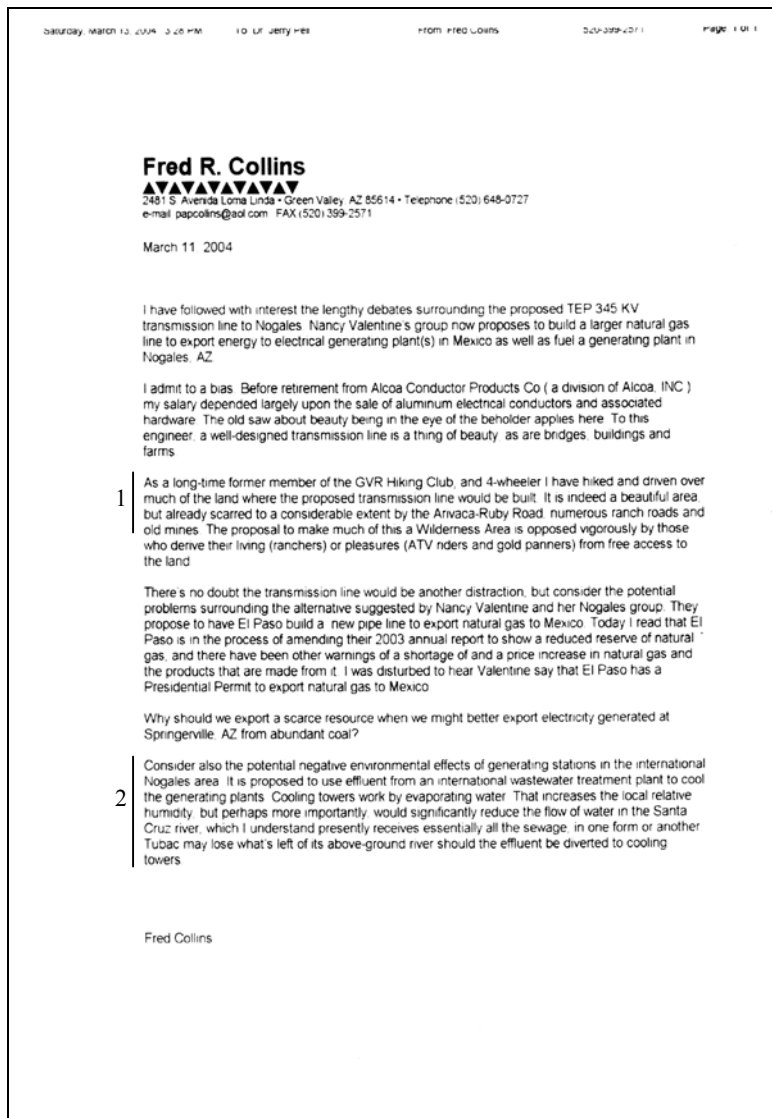


Collins, Fred  
Page 1 of 1



### Comment No. 1

The features in the project area cited by the commentor are considered in the analysis of the existing scenic integrity and changes to the scenic integrity from the proposed project (see Sections 3.2 and 4.2).

### Comment No. 2

The Federal agencies agree that there are negative environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of a power plant. However, the proposed action in this EIS does not require construction and operation of a new power plant.

**Condon, Paul T.**  
**Page 1 of 1**

----- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on  
10/16/2003 06:04 PM -----  
ptcondon@comcast.net  
10/14/2003 09:36 PM

To: <skozacek@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales  
Transmission line DEIS and needed Forest Plan Amendments

To: Sue Kozacek

I can't believe that the Forest Service would consider destroying an area like the Tumacacori and Atascosa Mountain Region, and then in turn close down the Fossil Creek power plants and destroy already existing historical buildings. Fossil Creek is a beautiful area too, and now you are wanting to turn it back into wilderness. The area where this powerline is proposed is wilderness designated and should remain that way. Animal species exist in this area that exist nowhere else in the world.

- 1 This powerline would destroy their habitat. Have you ever seen serious construction roads regrow in a lifetime? Arizona is a special place that television shows feature all the time on nature related programs. Let's keep Arizona special.

Paul T. Condon  
8832 E. Buckboard Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85749  
520-490-4717

**Comment No. 1**

As explained in Section 3.1, Land Use, none of the study corridors go through a wilderness area classified as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (Sections 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 address the nearest such area, the Pajarita Wilderness). Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 describe the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to special status species and their habitat. Section 4.3.2 states that the long-term reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly from disturbances.

**Condon, Paul T.**  
**Page 1 of 1**

Page 1 of 1

Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS

From: ptcondon@comcast.net [SMTP:ptcondon@comcast.net]  
To: Pell, Jerry  
Cc:

Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line DEIS  
Sent: 10/15/2003 12:20 AM  
Importance: Normal  
Dear Sir;

1 I have been visiting this area where the powerline is proposed since 1983.  
2 This is a designated wilderness area. Putting this powerline through this  
area would destroy vast amounts of pristine wilderness where species live  
that exist nowhere else. Please do not consider this powerline and take no  
action to approve it going forward. Arizona is a special place. Let's keep  
it that way!

Paul T. Condon  
8832 E. Buckboard Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85749  
520-490-4717

**Comment No. 1**

Refer to the response to Comment 1 of the previous submittal from Paul T. Condon.

**Comment No. 2**

The Federal agencies note the commentor's preference for the No Action Alternative.

**Cooper, Laurel**  
**Page 1 of 2**

TEP Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line Project

From: Laurel M. Cooper  
[SMTP:lcooper@desertpaths.com]  
To: Pell, Jerry  
Cc:

Subject: TEP Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line Project  
Sent: 10/6/2003 6:42 PM  
Importance: Normal  
Dear Mr. Pell,

1 I was unable to go to the Sept. meetings in Green Valley and Nogales but I do feel very strongly that the TEP Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line Project should NOT be built:

2 -- Obsolescence. We need more distributed generation: environmentally friendlier as it does not lose a major chunk of power in transmission, nor require as much polluting fossil fuels, nor create radioactive waste. The technical means to do so are being operationalized in US, Europe, and Japan: wind, solar, and fuel cells.

3 -- Unreliability of power grids. When I worked in the American Embassy in Mexico City, everyone complained about electricity fluctuations and their effect on appliances. That was back when Mexico was just beginning to suffer the economic trials that have snowballed since late 1970s. So linking our grids could lead to blackouts. We all saw how the problems in one problematic Ohio utility took out most of the Northeast recently; similar events happened in London, in Denmark and southern Sweden, and in Italy; moreover, the downing of lines from hurricane Isabella is taking weeks to repair. Five major transmission outages in 2 months show that we should not put all of our energy eggs in one fragile basket.

**Comment No. 1**

The Federal agencies note the commentator's opposition to the proposed project.

**Comment No. 2**

Distributed generation serves a different purpose than the stated purpose and need in TEP's proposal, and thus, is not evaluated as an alternative in this EIS. Furthermore, as noted in ACC Comment 3, alternative generation sources (including distributed energy resources) do not obviate the need for the proposed project.

**Comment No. 3**

As part of DOE's decisionmaking process on whether to grant a Presidential Permit for the proposed project, DOE will determine whether the proposed project will adversely impact the reliability of the U.S. electric system. Also, before authorizing exports to Mexico over the proposed 345-kV facilities, DOE must ensure that the export will not impair sufficiency of supply within the United States and will not impede, or tend to impede, the coordinated use of the regional transmission system.

**Comment No. 4**

The proposed transmission line would be no greater a terrorist target than any other extra high voltage transmission line in the United States. The worst-case scenario would be that several transmission line poles are felled and that it takes a few days to a couple of weeks to replace them and restring the conductors (see Section 4.11.1 of the EIS).

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally reinforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the

Cooper, Laurel  
Page 2 of 2

4 -- Security issues. The project would be another easy target for terrorists in an area where the border is not controlled despite walls, increased Border Patrol activities, etc. Indeed, the route and supporting roads will provide even more options for drug and people smugglers.

5 -- Environmental impact. TEP's claims on revegetation are not credible to anyone acquainted with dry lands restoration. Plants do not grow as fast as in the Washington DC area etc. Southern Arizona still shows the scars from mining in the 1880s. In destroying native plants, TEP would create conditions that favor invasive weeds like buffel grass, widespread in Sonora and increasingly a factor in wildfires north of the border. Erosion will result from the powerline and supporting roads. The loss of habitat would have a negative impact on animals in the area.

6 -- Potential to be linked to new Mexican power plant(s) that will endanger my health and that of my family, neighbors, and visitors, because Mexico does not have the pollution controls required on this side of the border.

7 Alternatives DO exist for the Nogales area such a local plant. Please pursue those instead of letting TEP build this environmental and social disaster. Thank you for considering my views,

Laurel Cooper, Ph.D.  
2537 E Richards Place  
Tucson AZ 85716

**Comment No. 4 (continued)**

construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above.

**Comment No. 5**

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present analyses of the affected environment and potential impacts to biological resources, including impacts to vegetation and wildlife habitat. Sections 3.3.6 and 4.3.6 discuss the existing invasive species (non-native plants) in the project area, and potential invasive species impacts that could result from the proposed project.

**Comment No. 6**

Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects, of the Final EIS has been augmented to discuss the growth of electricity demand in Mexico and the United States and the potential for new power plants, and to describe qualitatively the potential impacts in the United States (including air quality impacts) from power plant construction in southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Chapter 5 has also been revised to describe the regulation of power plants in Mexico (including coordination between the United States and Mexico), potential fuel sources, and associated emissions.

**Comment No. 7**

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Costa, Alisa  
Page 1 of 2

--- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on  
10/16/2003 05:34 PM -----  
acosta@mac.com  
10/10/2003 06:10 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric  
Power's  
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek  
Coronado National Forest  
Federal Building, 300 West Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft  
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric Power's  
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 I'm 29 and married. I care about the environmental impact of  
the Department of Energy public policies, for myself and my  
children.

3 TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover  
Route" would carve through some of the most remote and wild  
areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the beautiful and  
irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori Highlands. This  
area contains several roadless areas as well as a citizen's  
proposed Wilderness area home to black bears, Mexican  
spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine falcons as  
well as lesser known species such as the Sonora chub,  
Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry indigo  
bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two years ago.

#### Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

#### Comment No. 2

DOE has determined that the issuance of this Presidential Permit to TEP for the proposed project would constitute a major Federal action that may have a significant impact on the environment within the meaning of NEPA, and therefore, has prepared this Final EIS to evaluate potential environmental impacts from the proposed Federal action (granting a Presidential Permit for the proposed transmission facilities) and reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. An EIS is a tool that informs Federal decisionmakers of the environmental consequences of choosing among the alternatives available to them.

#### Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Costa, Alisa  
Page 2 of 2

4 The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

5 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

6 The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Alisa Costa  
2097 Route 203  
Chatham, New York 12037

#### Comment No. 4

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system..." As explained in Section 1.2 of the Final EIS, where a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

#### Comment No. 5

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of TEP and the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.



**Comment No. 6**

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

**Coste, Robert**  
**Page 1 of 2**

Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission line  
DEIS

From: Robert C [SMTP:robertcmailbox@earthlink.net]  
To: Pell, Jerry  
Cc:

Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales  
Transmission line DEIS  
Sent: 10/14/2003 10:25 AM  
Importance: Normal

Dear sir,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of my two children. Day after day they watch our environment being bulldozed for supposedly the benefit of mankind and ask what are we doing with the animals that live in those areas. When are we going to think about them and why do we have to build everywhere. They have seen in there short lives too much open space disappear in some cases overnight . I do not understand the need for this project at this time.

There is no "Need" stated for a 345 kV line by either the applicant (TEP) or agencies . Most of the energy transmitted on the line would not benefit Santa Cruz County, why is the 345 kV, and not a smaller line, needed?

A smaller, less obtrusive power line, such as a 115 kV line was not considered for any route. Why not? A 115 kV line is cheaper, can more easily be buried in sensitive areas near homes, and would serve the long-term needs of Santa Cruz County.

#### **Comment No. 1**

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal and, therefore, is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

#### **Comment No. 2**

ACC Decision No. 62011 (ACC 1999) mandates the construction of a second transmission line to serve customers in Santa Cruz County, and does not reference the export of electricity to Mexico. However, TEP's stated purpose and need for the proposed project is a dual purpose and need of benefiting both southern Arizona and Mexico.

**Coste, Robert**  
**Page 2 of 2**

- 2 I do not support the proposed routes because they do not serve  
Santa Cruz County's interests, as originally intended under  
ACC order 62011. They are an unnecessary economic,  
environmental, and culture burden on Southern Arizona.
- 3 Please consider withdrawing the Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement and issuing an assessment that properly analyzes  
real solutions to power needs in Santa Cruz County that  
include a smaller power line and/or locally run power plant.

If you would be so kind as to respond to the above questions  
I would certainly appreciate it.

Thanks for you time

Robert Coste  
7326 W Moonmist Pl.  
Tucson Az. 85746

**Comment No. 3**

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

**Coste, Robert**  
**Page 1 of 1**

---- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on  
10/16/2003 06:04 PM -----  
Robert C <robertcmailbox@earthlink.net>  
10/14/2003 07:39 AM

Please respond to robertcmailbox

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales  
Transmission line DEIS and needed Forest Plan Amendment

Dear Madame(Mlle),

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of my two children.  
Day after day they watch our environment being bulldozed for  
supposedly the benefit of mankind and ask what are we doing  
with the animals that live in those areas. When are we going to  
think about them and why do we have to build everywhere.  
They have seen in there short lives too much open space  
1 | disappear in some cases overnight. I do not understand the  
need for this project at this time.

2 | A Forest Plan Amendment would only decrease the already  
3 | dwindling supply of remote recreational experiences in the  
region and would impact many sensitive wildlife and plant  
species that are an important aspect of our southern Arizona  
natural heritage. I urge you to deny the special use permit for  
the Western and Crossover Routes because they are not  
compatible with the current uses of the affected area.

Thank you in advance for allowing my input on this subject  
that is of great concern for all our future generations.

Robert Coste  
7326 W Moon mist Pl  
Tucson AZ. 85746

#### **Comment No. 1**

The ACC is vested with the state's authority to decide how it believes energy should be furnished within Arizona's borders (for example, the need for and effectiveness of transmission lines within its borders). Refer to the revised text in Section 1.1.2, The Origin of TEP's Proposal: TEP's Business Plan and the Proceedings of the Arizona Corporation Committee, that provides explanation of the jurisdictions and authorities of the state and Federal agencies, and their relationship to this NEPA analysis.

#### **Comment No. 2**

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present analysis of existing recreational settings and activities, and potential impacts to recreation from the proposed project. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are "inconsistent" with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest. Analysis of the proposed Forest Plan amendments is contained in Appendix H.

Section 3.3 presents a description of the existing biological resources, including sensitive wildlife and plant species, and Section 4.3 analyzes the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

#### **Comment No. 3**

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 discuss the existing land use and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

**Costigan, Cheryl**  
**Page 1 of 2**

----- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on  
10/16/2003 05:22 PM -----  
cherylcostigan@hotmail.com  
10/10/2003 12:20 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric  
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek  
Coronado National Forest  
Federal Building, 300 West Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft  
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric Power's  
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 Although I live in northern Idaho, I have a passion for the  
desert southwest. I am concerned about TEP's proposed  
"Western Route" and alternative "Crossover Route" because  
they would carve through some of the most remote and wild  
areas in Southeast Arizona. Desert lands are fragile and these  
routes would forever scar the beautiful and irreplaceable  
landscape of the Tumacacori Highlands.

The area of the proposed routes include several roadless areas  
as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area. It is home to  
black bears, Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and  
peregrine falcons. Additionally, lesser known species such as  
the Sonora chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the  
Gentry indigo bush inhabit these lands. It is also my  
understanding that a jaguar was sighted in this area just two  
years ago - a rare treat!

**Comment No. 1**

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

**Comment No. 2**

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze  
potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the  
Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National  
Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within  
the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12,  
Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to  
the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze  
the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including  
potential impacts to wildlife. Section 4.3.2 states that the long-term  
reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to  
construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the  
proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly  
from disturbances.

Costigan, Cheryl  
Page 2 of 2

3 The service needs of the people of the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz county can still be met. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico. This is WRONG.

4 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying the environmental and cultural heritage of this area, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

I have long been an advocate for sane energy policies, and the recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that these energy policies should be based on serving the public interest, NOT corporate private profits.

5 I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider these official comments for entry into the public record.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Costigan  
P.O. Box 490  
Athol, Idaho 83801

### Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

### Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

**Comment No. 5**

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Davis, Jonathan E.  
Page 1 of 1

**From:** jjedif@yahoo.com [SMTP:jjedif@yahoo.com]  
**To:** Pell, Jerry  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** TEP's proposed 345-kilovolt powerline  
**Sent:** 10/9/2003 9:50 PM **Importance:** Normal

Dr. Jerry Pell  
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
1000 Independence Avenue. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Pell,

1 | Tucson Electric Power's proposed 345- kilovolt powerline  
threatens to destroy some of the wildest and most important  
wildlife areas of Arizona, including a proposed wilderness  
area. A much smaller and less destructive powerline will  
suffice to meet the needs of Americans; we Americans should  
2 | not be paying, or destroying our wilderness areas, in order to  
supply energy to Mexico. The draft EIS should be rejected,  
and begun anew from scratch in order to consider more  
reasonable and less destructive alternatives.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Davis  
PO Box 555  
Mesilla, New Mexico 88046

#### Comment No. 1

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

#### Comment No. 2

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.